

Bertha Foundation Racial Justice and Social Impact Attorney

ArchCity Defenders (ACD) is a 501(c)3 non-profit civil rights law firm providing holistic legal advocacy to the poor and homeless in the St. Louis region and beyond. ArchCity Defenders uses direct services, impact litigation, and advocacy through policy and public relations as its primary tools to promote racial justice and protect civil and human rights. Our goal is to provide zealous direct holistic legal representation and generate systemic change on behalf of the poor and communities of color.

Prominently, the tragic events in Ferguson were a failure of the rule of law. The shooting of Michael Brown and the ensuing protests represent the culmination of a police force and legal system coopted to serve financial needs, rather than the people whom they were supposed to serve. The citizens of Ferguson became, through the justice system, a financial resource to be tapped to pay for the police, prosecutors, courts, and city council members. This practice is widespread throughout our region and we are actively pursuing a litigation strategy to end it once and for all.

We seek an experienced attorney to help manage federal and state class action lawsuits representing communities of color and the homeless who have been locked in modern day debtors' prisons in Ferguson and the surrounding areas, denied counsel and access to the Courts, and charged illegal fees and fines that have destroyed their lives in the name of profit. This attorney will work on impact litigation, provide direct client representation, and supervise and develop legal interns. Must have a commitment to indigent defense, holistic representation, and systemic change. Looking for a self-starter with a passion for justice.

Qualifications

- J.D. with admission to the Missouri Bar or ability to obtain admission through waiver or reciprocity.
- 5-7 years experience in state and federal court.
- Demonstrated commitment to public interest law, civil rights and the mission of ArchCity Defenders.
- Background in impact litigation and ability to work with collaborative partners in lawsuits.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team. Experience in criminal defense.
- Experience supervising and developing legal interns.
- Familiarity with CLIO or other electronic time/case management system
- Ability and desire to write and publish articles, opinion pieces and commentary on poverty law

This position is funded through the generous support of a grant from the Bertha Foundation, which supports organizations that practice public interest law and promotes movement lawyering. ArchCity Defenders envisions this becoming a permanent position at the end of the two-year period grant period, subject to performance evaluation and additional funding. Salary is \$80,000 per year, private office, paid vacation, flex-time, CLE, Bar dues, health benefits allowance. Send cover letter and resume to:

wendy@wendywerner.com

Subject: Bertha Foundation Racial Justice Attorney

Wendy L. Werner

Werner Associates, LLC